

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-8 and 19 are pending in the application, with claim 18 being the independent claim. No new matter is added to the present application by the foregoing amendments, which are fully supported in the specification as originally filed, and their entry is respectfully requested. In particular, support for the amendments to claims 6-8 can be found in Example 5, on pages 17-18 of the specification.

In accordance with the Examiner's instruction, the Sequence Listing has been amended to include sequences shown in Figures 7 and 10. The specification was amended to include the SEQ ID NOs in the descriptions of these figures. In addition, submitted herewith are marked up copies of Figures 7 and 10 indicating the SEQ ID NOs, for approval by the draftsman. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(g), this submission includes no new matter. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f), the paper copy of the amended Sequence Listing and the computer readable copy of the Sequence Listing submitted herewith in the above application are the same.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Interview Summary

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for taking the time to discuss the Office Action and the Applicants' proposed amendments to the claims during a telephonic interview

held on August 12, 2003. During the interview, each element of the Office Action was discussed in turn.

Acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Foreign Priority

In the Office Action, on page 2, section 3, acknowledgment was made of Applicants' claim for foreign priority. However it was noted that certified copies of the priority documents were not yet filed. In compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 119(b), Applicants herewith submit certified copies of the following priority documents: UK Application No. 9904028.9, filed on February 22, 1999; UK Application No. 9922561.7, filed on September 23, 1999; and International Application PCT/GB00/00624, filed on February 22, 2000.

Objection to the Specification

In the Office Action, on pages 2-3, sections 5 and 6, the Examiner objected to the specification because of informalities contained therein. By the foregoing amendments, Applicants have corrected these informalities. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, on page 3, section 7, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in the interest of expediting the allowance of the above-captioned application, Applicants have amended the claims to address the Examiner's concerns.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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